

A Korean Instance
An American Woman's Work for the Blind and Deaf

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to conduct the government of a country," said: "Make it your aim to wish for moral well-being."

Along with other nationalities Americans naturally hope for a larger share in the trade of China and are sometimes impatient that the increase is not more rapid. But there is high authority for "seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" and an assurance that material things will be added later. If it becomes the good fortune of my country to be the teacher of Asia I do not fear that its commerce will flow entirely or chiefly in other channels. And is it not a higher honor to enlighten a people than to conquer it or even to supply its imports?

Nor should we suppose that Asia is the sole beneficiary of America's educational undertaking.

"Teaching we learn
And giving we receive."

And no nation can contribute so largely to the uplift of another without feeling the reacting impulse of lofty endeavor.

Asia, the cradle of mankind, is the source of all existing religions, the original home of letters,—for Cadmus meant merely the East. All the stories and legends represent the Wise Men as coming from the East, and an English writer has said that the farther he went West the surer he was that the Wise Men *must* have come from the East.

The fires of learning which burned so brightly in ancient Asia were later extinguished or at least became dim and smoldering. But the torch of learning there lighted has been passed on. Asia hands it to Greece, Greece to Rome, Rome to Britain, Britain to America; and America brings it once more to Asia, there to rekindle the fires at the ancient shrines of culture.

A KOREAN INSTANCE

AN AMERICAN WOMAN'S WORK FOR THE BLIND AND DEAF

"When nations are at war with each other in civilized Europe, is it not providential that this convention, with philanthropic purposes, should have been, as it was, convened in this far-off corner of the world? It seems that the angel of love and civilization has bidden good-bye to Europe for a while, and come to Cho-sen [Korea] to bless the Blind and the Deaf of the Far East!"

THE words quoted above are those of Mr. Yamagata, editor of the *Seoul Press*, a newspaper published in the capital of Korea. They were spoken at a convention held in the Korean city of Pyong-yang in the interest of education for the blind and deaf of the Far East. He explained that this was the very first meeting of its kind that had been held in the Orient; and delegates were present from China, Japan, Manchuria, and different parts of Korea. Mr. Yamagata paid a tribute to the American woman physician, Dr. Hall, who had founded the school and had organized the convention. He declared that "when the peoples became sufficiently civilized and wise, they will honor the names of such educational leaders above those of generals and admirals now fighting in Europe."

Count Terauchi, the Governor-General of Korea, in a message of good-will, expressed a very intelligent appreciation and characterized the education of the blind and deaf

as "the most difficult of the various philanthropic works." Continuing, he said: "Unless those engaged in the work feel that their mission is great and noble, they will never be able perfectly to discharge their responsibility. I greatly admire you for devoting yourselves heart and soul to this work for so many years."

The Governor of the province, that of South Pyong-yang, is Mr. Matsunaga, from whose remarks at the convention we quote the following as showing the high regard that has been won by an American woman for her patient and persistent work, and the spirit of friendly coöperation that the high Japanese officials are glad to express:

We well understand that the undertaking of the work for the blind and deaf meets with great difficulties along the line of support, for even in our home land, Japan, as well as in Europe and America, such schools established by the Government or by the public, have received annual grants from their respective governments.

The work for the blind in Pyong-yang was es-

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CONVENTION IN THE INTEREST OF EDUCATION FOR THE BLIND AND DEAF, HELD IN PYONG-YANG, KOREA,—
THE FIRST MEETING OF ITS KIND IN THE FAR EAST

(Dr. Hall, who has directed the work for the blind in Pyong-yang for twenty years, is the fourth lady from the left, of those seated)

tablished in 1894 by the present director, Mrs. Hall. If we think of its past history we shall see that it has passed through quite serious difficulties. In the summer of 1894 it had to be suspended for a time on account of the Japanese-Chinese War. Before the restoration of peace, unfortunately, Mrs. Hall's husband was suddenly taken ill and passed away. After new buildings had been completed the work was again interrupted by the Japan-Russia War, and later these buildings were destroyed by fire in 1906. On the other hand Mrs. Hall has ceaselessly worked in the Hospital of Extended Grace for Women. She has given herself unsparingly to the work for the sick and defectives, exerting all of her powers in the midst of non-civilization, with a foreign language, strange manners and customs to hinder her. She served herself as an instructor and has sent students abroad to be trained as teachers for the future. Moreover, she works herself as a compiler of the textbooks for the blind, and has improved the conditions of the school according to the need of the times, or as educational reforms were made.

There are now nearly forty students under the care of your department, and success has been the reward of your indomitable perseverance. We admire you for great and constant labor, and for your patience. You have also been the promoter of this convention, the first of its kind in the Far East, which is meeting to-day, and I respect you for so fine an undertaking.

We need to remember that differences in conditions and customs of the various countries make much study and investigation necessary in order to carry on the work for the blind and deaf. I am sure that the discussion of all these problems by the delegates in the interest of humanity will be of great value, not only to those directly connected with this work but also to those engaged in social and economic effort.



GOVERNOR MATSUNAGA, OF SOUTH
PYONG-YANG PROVINCE, KOREA

One might multiply instances gathered from many regions in the Eastern world, to show the value of the unselfish work for education, health, and social progress that Americans have instituted and carried to successful results.

